

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

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USIA-06 EB-07 AID-05 CU-02 PC-01 EUR-12 IO-10 OMB-01

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R 170615Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8875

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OUAGADOUGOU 2608

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, UP

SUBJECT: INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

1. SUMMARY. IN CONTRAST TO LAST TWO YEARS WHEN, BECAUSE OF DROUGHT AND POLICY OF AUSTERITY, CELEBRATION OF INDEPENDENCE WAS MINIMAL, GOUV THIS YEAR WENT ALL OUT IN CELEBRATING FOURTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF UPPER VOLTA'S INDEPENDENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. FESTIVITIES BEGAN DECEMBER 10 WITH PRESENTATION OF DECORATIONS TO SOME SEVENTH VOLTAN PERSONALITIES AND SIX EXPATRIATES (FRENCH). THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY INAUGURATION OF NEW BUILDING OF OFFICE FOR PROMOTION OF VOLTAN ENTERPRISE AND OF NEW 100 KW TRANSMITTER BUILT WITH FRG ASSISTANCE. IN AFTERNOON, DIPLOMATIC CORPS PRESENTED ITS CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT LAMIZANA AT PALACE. THAT NIGHT PRESIDENT DELIVERED LONG SPEECH WHICH WAS SORT OF "STATE OF UPPER VOLTA" MESSAGE. PRESIDENT REVIEWED ACTIONS OF MILITARY REGIME SINCE FEBRUARY 1974 IN FIELDS OF FINANCE, ECONOMY, EDUCATION, YOUTH, INFORMATION, CIVIL SERVICE, TRANSPORT AND

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TION, YOUTH, INFORMATION, CIVIL SERVICE, TRANSPORT AND

COMMUNICATIONS AND SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME ON IMPLEMENTATION OF FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN. HE PAID TRIBUTE TO ALL NATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONTRIBUTING TO SUCCESS OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND MENTIONED, AMONG OTHERS, USAID, PEACE CORPS AND CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES.

3. DECEMBER 11 BEGAN WITH WELL-ORGANIZED PARADE LASTING ALMOST TWO HOURS IN WHICH MILITARY UNITS, SCHOOLS, YOUTH, SPORTS AND DANCING GROUPS, WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS, REGIONAL DELEGATIONS AND PRIVATE GROUPS PARTICIPATED. ON THIS OCCASION, PRESIDENT PRESENTED TO WIDOW OF FORMER PRESIDENT AND RDA LEADER OUEZZIN COULIBALY WHO DIED IN 1958, THE GOLD MEDAL AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY TO COULIBALY BY OAU CHIEFS OF STATE LAST YEAR. A FREE SOCCER GAME BETWEEN UPPER VOLTA'S TWO STAR TEAMS TOOK PLACE AT MUNICIPAL STADIUM IN AFTERNOON, AND A LARGE RECEPTION HOSTED BY PRESIDENT AND MRS. LAMIZANA WAS HELD AT PALACE IN THE EVENING AT WHICH HUNDREDS OF PERSONS, INCLUDING DIPLOMATIC CORPS, WERE INVITED. A DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS CONCLUDED THE FESTIVITIES.

4. A SIT-DOWN DINNER GIVEN THE NEXT DAY BY PRESIDENT AT THE PALACE FOR DIPLOMATIC CORPS WAS PROBABLY AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE ON PART OF GOUV FOR LARGE NUMBER OF AMBASSADORS (MOST OF THEM RESIDENT IN ABIDJAN) WHO HAD ATTENDED CEREMONIES THIS YEAR.

5. COMMENT: IT IS UNUSUAL FOR LAMIZANA REGIME TO SPEND CONSIDERABLE SUMS ON SUCH FESTIVITIES, AND FINANCE MINISTER GARANGO, WHO IS EXTREMELY TIGHT FISTED, MUST HAVE BEEN SICK AT HEART. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE CELEBRATIONS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY THE PEOPLE OF OUAGADOUGOU WHO TURNED UP BY THE THOUSANDS AT EACH PUBLIC MANIFESTATION. AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF DROUGHT, HUNGER AND MISERY, GOUV APPARENTLY FELT THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR THE PEOPLE OF UPPER VOLTA TO CELEBRATE THE GOOD HARVEST AND, HOPEFULLY, THE END OF THE DROUGHT.

GRAHAM

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## Message Attributes

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